

HERITAGE BULLETIN BOARD XII MAY 28, 2002

This issue of the Bulletin Board has been delayed to give all of you the latest action on the Hefley Bill (H.R. 2388). Note that the National Heritage Area address list has been updated once again.



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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

On May 22, the House Resources Committee marked up the National Heritage Areas Policy Act of 2001 (H.R. 2388). The bill was voted out of committee, but not before members considered three different amendments. The ranking member of the committee Nick Rahall (D-WV) offered an amendment to allow heritage areas to use their federal dollars to purchase real property from willing sellers. The amendment was defeated 15-22. A second amendment was offered by Representative Mark Udall (D-CO) to authorize a study on the feasibility of establishing a cultural heritage assistance partnership program. This proposal was originally part of a more comprehensive bill that he had introduced earlier in the 107th Congress as the Cultural Heritage Assistance Partnership Act of 2001 (H.R. 1882). The amendment was defeated by a voice vote. Representative Pombo (R-CA) then offered an amendment that would require the Secretary of the Interior to notify every private property owner in a proposed national heritage area and would further require all owners of private property to provide their "written informed consent" to being included in a heritage area. After discussion the bill was defeated by a 91-21 vote. Committee Chair Hansen, Subcommittee Chair Radanovich, and bill sponsor Joel Hefley voted against the amendment. Representative Hefley then offered an amendment in the form of a substitution (reflecting changes to the bill after the subcommittee markup) to the bill and it was favorably reported out of committee.

The key amendments to the bill are summarized in the attached document.



Hefley Bill amendments May 22,2002

In other legislative action, H.R. 2628, a bill to study the feasibility of the Muscle Shoals region in Alabama as a heritage area (Cramer-AL), passed the house. Representative Taylor (R-NC) introduced the H.R. 4530 the Blue Ridge Heritage and Cultural Partnership Area Study Act of 2002. Two other heritage area designation bills are expected in the near future, the Atchafayla Basin in Louisiana and the proposed Northern Rio Grande Heritage Area in New Mexico.

HERITAGE PARTNERS

It has always been my contention that heritage areas are a strategy for envisioning the future of a region around the shared heritage of its past. One thing is for sure, no agency or organization has a lock on the name or the process. This is demonstrated over and over again by the application of the technique by different players seeking similar results.

For example, the US Forest Service is supporting the following initiative in partnership with the University of West Virginia as described in the project's newsletter *Growth Rings*.

"The Forestry Heritage Trail is a grant-supported regional initiative to organize forest-based historic sites, artisans, manufacturing firms and working forests into a cohesive network of forest heritage tourism destinations. The goal of the project is to create a unified theme for the central Appalachian Mountain region including West Virginia and Western Maryland. The project capitalizes on the rich forestry heritage of mountain communities in this region. It will also provide public education regarding historical and contemporary efforts to maintain healthy forest

ecosystems. The Forest Heritage Trail Project depends on the active participation of all interested stakeholders, agencies and individuals."

For more information contact staff coordinator Jeremy Morris at jmorris5@wvu.edu.

Your editor is always looking for other examples, so please send them in.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Fall Meeting Alliance for National Heritage Areas Silos & Smokestacks Waterloo IA Oct 3-5

Annual Meeting National Trust for Historic Preservation (with lots of heritage sessions) Oct 8-13

International Conference on Heritage Development June 7-11 2003.